

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4498

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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SUBJ :LABOR PARTY WINS STRONG VICTORY IN CRC ELECTIONS

REF :CAPE TOWN A224

1. THE LABOR PARTY HAS SCORED A STRONG VICTORY OVER THE FEDERAL PARTY IN THE MARCH 19 ELECTION FOR THE SECOND COLORED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL(CRC). WITH THE RESULTS OF ALL BUT TWO OF THE 40 CONSTITUENCIES REPORTED,LABOR HAS WON 29 SEATS TO EIGHT WON BY THE FEDERAL PARTY AND ONE BY AN INDEPENDENT. ONE OF THE TWO OUTSTANDING SEATS MOST PROBABLY WILL BE WON BY THE LABOR CANDIDATE AND THE REMAINDER BY AN INDEPENDENT WHO MAY BE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE LABOR VOTE ON BASIC ISSUES.

2. THE GOVERNMENT MAY THEREFORE NOT HAVE AVAILABLE TO IT THE OPTION,USED AT THE TIME OF THE 1969 ELECTIONS FOR THE FIRST CRC, OF ASSURING CONTROL OF THE 60-MEMBER CRC BY THE FEDERAL PARTY BY FILLING ALL OF ITS 20 NOMINATIVE SEATS WITH FP MEMBERS, WHOSE POLICY HAS BEEN TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN SECURING GAINS FOR THE COLORED COMMUNITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT.

3. MOST PROBABLY ANTICIPATING SUCH A SITUATION,THE GOVERNMENT,ON ELECTION DAY,PRESENTED A BILL TO THE HOUSE OF

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ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE MINISTER OF COLORED AFFAIRS TO

EXERCISE THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE CRC 'IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES'.

4. SONNY LEON, THE LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS CALLING THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT A PLAN TO 'CLOSE DOWN THE CRC'.

5. SPOKESMEN OF THE THREE WHITE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE DECLARED THAT CRC ELECTION RESULTS ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT COLORED PEOPLE HAVE REJECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY. UNITED PARTY'S SPOKESMAN FOR COLORED AFFAIRS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE NOTE OF THIS FAILURE BUT ADDED THAT NEWLY ELECTED CRC MEMBERS MUST CONTINUE TO USE FULLY MACHINERY FOR DIALOGUE AND CONSULTATION SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT--- 'THE ONLY PEACEFUL PATH TO PROGRESS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES'. PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER EGLIN SAID THAT MARCH 19 'MARKS THE END OF THE ROAD OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT' INsofar AS COLORED PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED, AND DEMONSTRATED HOW 'HOPELESSLY OUT OF TOUCH' THE GOVERNMENT WAS WITH COLORED OPINION AND FRUSTRATIONS. HE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY AND GRANT THEM FULL CITIZENSHIP AND A DIRECT SAY IN PARLIAMENT. REFORM PARTY LEADER SCHWARTZ SAID GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOW SIT DOWN WITH ELECTED LEADERS OF COLORED PEOPLE AND SEEK A CONSENSUS OF THEIR REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT AND, IF NEED BE, A DRASTIC REVISION OF THE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE CRC.

6. DURING THE COURSE OF A SPEECH ON MARCH 20 PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WARNS THE LABOR PARTY AGAINST ISOLATING AND DESTROYING THE 'GREAT DEAL OF GOOD WILL' THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THE WHITE AND COLORED PEOPLE.
GAMON

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